

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /080 W

-----033782 242105Z /72

R 241404Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2771

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 6566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PS AND PSD DISCUSS

REGIONAL AUTONOMY

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT WILL MEET AUG 24 WITH PS AND PSD NATIONAL LEADERS AND THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR MADEIRA DN THE AZORES TO DISCUSS COOPERATION BETWEEN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES. RECENT PS STATEMENTS IN THE AZORES SUGGEST THAT THE PS/PSD UNDERSTANDINGS WORKED OUT DURING THE PAST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION ARE EXTENDING TO THE ISLANDS.

1. SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO MEET WITH EANES: PRESIDENT EANES MET AUG 22 WITH PRIME MINISTER SOARES AND PSD LEADER

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SA CARNEIRO TO PREPARE FOR A AUG 24 MINI-SUMMIT

BRING TOGETHER EANES, SOARES, DEFENSE MINISTER MIGUEL, PLANNING MINISTER SOUSA GOMES, AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF MADEIRA AND THE AZORES TO DISCUSS NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

2. JAIME GAMA IN THE AZORES: SOCIALIST PARTY SPOKESMAN

JAIME GAMA MET DURING THE PAST WEEK WITH LOCAL PS LEADERS IN THE AZORES, AND ANNOUNCED THAT BILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PS AND PSD LEADERS WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER. IN A SUBSEQUENT PS STATEMENT RELEASED TO THE REGIONAL PRESS, THE SOCIALISTS:

- DESCRIBED AS "POSITIVE" THE PERFORMANCE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ON THE ISLANDS DURING THE LAST YEAR;
- SUGGESTED AN URGENT REVIEW OF THE PROVISIONAL STATUTE OF AUTONOMY;
- PROMISED TO RESOLVE THE REGIONAL FLAG ISSUE;
- URGED THE RAPID TRANSFER OF PERIPHERAL STATE SERVICES TO THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT;
- AFFIRMED THAT PS DIFFERENCES WITH THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT ENDANGER THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS.

3. GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION IN MADEIRA: ON ARRIVAL IN LISBON FOR THE AUG 24 MEETING, MADEIRA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT CAMACHO PROMISED A REORGANIZATION OF THE MADEIRA GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER.

4. CUNHAL RETURNS: PCP LEADER CUNHAL RETURNED FROM HIS 15-DAY MOSCOW VISIT AUG 20 AND WAS QUICK TO DENY RUMORS THAT HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO MOSCOW TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CPSU LEADERSHIP. HIGHLIGHTS OF CUNHAL'S AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDE:
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(A) EUROCOMMUNISM:

- THE PCP BELIEVES THE TERM EUROCOMMUNISM IS AN ARTIFICIAL LABEL WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT CURRENT EUROPEAN POLITICAL REALITIES;
- THE TACTICS ADOPTED BY OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES REFLECT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY;
- THESE EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY AND LEGITIMATE BUT THEY DO NOT REFLECT THE TRUE COMMUNIST SPIRIT, WHICH CALLS FOR A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY.

(B) ALEGRE MISSION TO AFRICA:

- PORTUGAL HAS NOT DONE ENOUGH TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH EITHER MOZAMBIQUE OR ANGOLA;
- CONSEQUENTLY, THE PCP APPLAUDS THE ATTEMPTS BY ANY MEMBER OF THE GOP TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THE FORMER COLONIES WITH DUE RESPECT FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

(C) THE CPSU:

- THE SENSE OF SOLIDARITY, FRIENDSHIP, AND MUTUAL TRUST WHICH CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CPSU AND THE THEN ILLEGAL PCP BEFORE THE APRIL 25 REVOLUTION CONTINUES.

5. COMMENT: THE CONCILIATORY PS STATEMENT ISSUED
DURING GAMA'S VISIT SUGGESTS THAT THE PS/PSD UNDERSTANDINGS
WORKED OUT DURING THE PAST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION
ARE EXTENDING TO THE ISLANDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770829/aaaaayhq.tel
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1502732
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PS AND PSD DISCUSS REGIONAL AUTONOMY SUMMARY: PRESIDENT WILL MEET AUG 24 WITH PS AND
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3e361054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009